

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /080 W
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O R 042312Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2746

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: BRANIFF

REF: A) STATE 217284

1. DURING COURSE OF COURTESY CALL LATE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 4 ON FONOFF DEPUTY SECRETARY VALDEZ TOGETHER WITH CU/ARA DIRECTOR CHAPLIN, VALDEZ GAVE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE BRANIFF MATTER ACCORDING TO INFORMATION HE HAD GOTTEN FROM COL. SUAREZ. GOE HAD REQUESTED AIRLINE COMPANIES TO AUGMENT FLIGHTS TO AND FROM ECUADOR SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO COPE WITH INCREASED TOURISM. BRANIFF HAD RESPONDED AND WAS GIVEN A TEMPORARY PERMISSION FOR THREE ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS BRINGING ITS FREQUENCY FROM 19 TO 22 A WEEK. WITH A PASSING OF THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON AND THE REINITIATION OF ECUATORIANA FLIGHTS, THERE IS NOW NO FURTHER NEED FOR THE INCREASED FREQUENCY. VALDEZ SAID DGCA HAD INFORMED BRANIFF "TEN DAYS AGO" THAT ITS FREQUENCY WOULD REVERT TO 19 FLIGHTS A WEEK AS OF OCTOBER 7.

2. VALDEZ SAID THAT IF WE WISHED TO TALK ABOUT THIS THEY WERE QUITE READY TO DO SO. HE ADDED THAT GOE WAS SOMEWHAT AT FAULT BECAUSE BRANIFF HAD SUBMITTED ALL THE PAPERS NECESSARY FOR ITS FORMAL PERMIT TO OPERATE IN ECUADOR BUT THE GOE HAD NOT YET RESPONDED. IT MIGHT SPEED THE DECISION HERE IF THERE WERE TALKS
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ABOUT THIS. I TOLD VALDEZ THAT BRANIFF VICE PRESIDENT DEMURIAS

WAS ARRIVING ON SUNDAY AND THE DIRECT CONVERSATIONS COULD THUS BEGIN.

3. COMMENT: VALDEZ DID NOT USE THE WORD "CONSULTATION" AND I DID NOT SO INTERPRET HIS REFERENCE TO TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM. I THUS CONCLUDE THAT:

A) IN THE ABSENCE OF AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, THE THREE FLIGHTS MENTIONED IN REF A WILL HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED;

B) DIRECT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN BRANIFF AND THE DGCA ARE THE NEXT STEP.
BREWSTER

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